

Board of Selectmen Minutes 04/01/2013

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Board of Selectmen Minutes April 1, 2013

Chairman Carroll convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. in the Draper room of the Town Hall and moved into the agenda. Present: Chairman James Carroll; Selectman Robert Burns; Selectwoman Janet Jacaruso; Town Coordinator Eugene Phillips, Executive Assistant Patricia Goodwin, and Jeff Ellis, Videographer.

MSDV to approve the regular session minutes of March 18, 2013. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Coordinator Phillips presented the Bargmann & Hendrie + Archetype, Inc, designer contract for the Town Hall renovations to the Board for signature by the Chairman. Mr. Phillips stated that both Bargmann & Hendrie and Town Counsel have approved the contract for the town hall renovation and it is anticipated that the town will be spending \$80K between now and the next town meeting for the designer phase of the renovations, and commented that Bargmann & Hendrie have attended all meetings of the Renovation Committee. A warrant article will be prepared for the town meeting. It is estimated that the cost for the renovation will be between \$6M and \$7M.

Chairman Carroll moved to correspondence on the agenda.

Chairman Carroll commented that at the previous Board meeting of March 18th he stated that he would be attending the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association meeting on April 3, 2013, at which a presentation was to be made by the Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Carroll said since that time a notice was received that the Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee would not be available and he, therefore, would not attend the meeting,

Chairman Carroll moved to appointments and resignations on the agenda.

Michael Tusino, Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer, submitted his official resignation effective June 30, 2013. Mr. Tusino has been promoted to the position of head of the Building Department for the Town of Framingham. He has worked for the Town of Hopedale for the past 18 years on a part-time basis. The Board expressed their gratitude to Mr. Tusino stating that he has done an excellent job for the town, and reluctantly accepted his resignation and wished him well.

MSDV to accept the resignation of Michael Tusino as Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer for the Town of Hopedale effective June 30, 2013. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

At the request of the Department of Veterans' Affairs the Board was asked to re-appoint Veterans' Agent Robin Fletcher, as required annually by their department.

MSDV to approve the re-appointment of Robin Fletcher as Veterans' Agent for the Town of Hopedale. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Following an interview with Jamie Luchini to fill the vacant position of Custodian for the South Hopedale Cemetery, Coordinator Phillips asked the Board to approve the appointment of Mr. Luchini.

MSDV to approve the appointment of Jamie Luchini as Custodian of the South Hopedale Cemetery. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Chairman Carroll moved to new business on the agenda.

Chairman Carroll commented that he spoke with State Representative John Fernandes with regard to the proposed Milford Casino. Representative Fernandes was present and discussed the regulation process, stating that the process is complicated and that a host community has to vote in favor of a casino before anything can move forward, further commenting that nothing has been substantively proposed in Milford as yet. While the situation is still largely hypothetical until officials see a solid proposal, Representative Fernandes recommended that the town put it on their radar screen and be prepared to move quickly. He suggested that the Board access available Gaming Commission resources, which can be located on-line through their website, and to also begin communicating with regional planning agencies that will offer advice and support to surrounding communities. Representative Fernandes said the Gaming Commission will conduct an educational forum and the legislators also intend to set up a regional meeting to educate and advise officials from the nearby towns.

Coordinator Phillips discussed the cost of a Personnel Study stating that \$10K was included in the FY14 budget after e-mailing other towns that may have conducted a study. The Board said the scope of the study should be broader than the previous studies conducted in 2005, and 1999. Chairman Carroll said he would like to have a study completed in order to provide guidance moving forward, commenting that the town needs to establish a mechanism for non-union employees to advance through position salary ranges and the need for new job descriptions. Selectwoman Jacaruso stated that the Board needs some education as well and said perhaps the budget amount should be increased to \$15K for the study and that possibly the increased amount may not be needed. Chairman Carroll asked that a separate Town Meeting warrant article be included on the warrant for a vote at the annual Town Meeting.

MSDV to enter a warrant article on the May 21, 2013 annual Town Meeting warrant to fund a Personnel Study up to a maximum of \$15K. Chairman Carroll – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

Chairman Carroll moved to old business on the agenda.

Town Coordinator Search Committee Chairman, Mike Collins presented the committee's recommendation to the Board of three candidates: David Gagne, Michael Herbert and Steven Sette, for the position of Town Coordinator. Mr. Collins stated that meetings were held on February 28, March 14, 125, 20, 21 and 27. Out of 45 applicants submitting résumés, 9 applicants were interviewed with 3 candidates recommended for consideration and an interview by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Collins stated that at this time the process was being turned over to the Board and thanked the Board for the opportunity to be part of the selection process.

Mr. Collins thanked the search committee members for their time and effort, stating it had been one of the best committees he has participated in over the years and acknowledged co-chair Sally Decelles, and committee member Patricia Goodwin for their joint efforts on behalf of the committee.

Chairman Carroll asked that the candidates be scheduled for interviews with the Board during the week of April 8th, if possible, and prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 16th.

Chairman Carroll reviewed the current list of committee vacancies and asked that if anyone had an interest in joining one of the committees to please contact the Town Coordinator's Office.

Chairman Carroll moved to other topics not previously anticipated at the meeting.

Selectman Burns submitted a request to the Board to re-zone land in the town located on Rte. 140, Hartford Ave, and Rte. 16 from the Hopedale Medical Building to the Mendon town line. Mr. Burns asked that these areas be made commercial zoning areas from a depth of 200 to 400 feet with the intention of making additional land available to expand the town's commercial tax base. Mr. Burns asked that the Board submit his request to the Planning Board for consideration.

The Board tabled Selectman Burn's request pending further discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 16, 2013, which would allow more time for the Board to consider the request and to prepare questions for discussion before endorsing his request for submission to the Planning Board.

Chairman Carroll moved to Coordinator News on the agenda.

At the request of Representative John Fernandes, a Highway project has been submitted to the Governor's office this past week in regard to a transportation bill that is progressing through the legislature in an attempt to get the Massachusetts DOT District 3 to look at the reconstruction of the railroad tracks on Rte. 16 to the Milford town line. Coordinator Phillips said the Town of Hopedale has tried unsuccessfully to have this project looked at for a number of years. The project would entail the renovation of the tracks going across Rte. 16 and signalization of the crossing.

A street opening bond was received this past Thursday from White Mountain Cable Construction of New Hampshire, who is the subcontractor for Verizon regarding the underground wiring project in the neighborhood developments of Harmony Estates and Pinecrest Estates. According to the license agreement signed a couple of years ago with Verizon, they are obligated to have the entire town wired within a certain amount of time and the street opening bond will help to facilitate the project. Mr. Phillips commented that he anticipates the Verizon FiOS installation to be completed by the fall.

Jon Delli Priscoli, owner of the Grafton & Upton Railroad, has requested a few minor modifications to the Purchase and Sale Agreement regarding the Town's Depot Street land purchase as approved at the previous town meeting. Coordinator Phillips stated that Town Counsel reviewed the modifications and found they were acceptable. It is anticipated that the title search on the property will be completed by the end of the month with the closing scheduled to take place on or before May 15, 2013. Chairman Carroll asked if he could review the minor modifications to the P&S agreement and Coordinator Phillips stated he would show the Board those modifications the next day.

Resident Michael Collins questioned the possibility of purchasing an additional parcel by the Library to facilitate parking for the Library staff and visitors. Coordinator Phillips said he would ask Mr. Delli Priscoli about the possibility once again.

As the Town Hall 2-year e-mail address agreement with Comcast is due to expire within the next 8 months Coordinator Phillips stated that less costly alternatives were looked into. Virtual Town Hall, through our website, offers a less costly program with unlimited e-mail addresses. The Town Hall employees now have a new e-mail address with their names, but changing@comcast.net to @Hopedale-ma.gov. The old Comcast e-mail will continue to work until the expiration of that contract. Coordinator Phillips will look into the cost of converting the Council on Aging over to the new account as well.

Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM), the engineering firm regarding the capping of the Draper Landfill at 161 Freedom Street, has contracted with a construction company for the capping of the landfill which began this past Thursday. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by September. Coordinator Phillips commented that the area will be mounded with venting stack pipes, as approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The land will be used for passive recreation, as the town was unsuccessful in obtaining approval for active recreation due to the venting. The land is privately owned by Rockwell Automation, who is funding the entire project.

With no further business before them at 8:10 p.m. a motion was made by Selectman Burns, seconded by Selectwoman Jacaruso, and agreed to by Chairman Carroll to adjourn the open meeting and to enter into executive session, not to reconvene in regular session, under G.L. c.30A, §21(a) (3), to discuss negotiations with the Permanent Firefighters Union, and potential litigation against the town because the Chair has declared that discussing this matter in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board of Selectmen; and I as Chairman so declare; not to reconvene but to adjourn directly upon conclusion of the closed discussion.

MSDV to enter into executive session, not to return to open session meeting, and not to reconvene. RCV**: James Carroll, Chm. – Aye; Selectman Burns – Aye, and Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye.

James F. Carroll, Chairman

Robert P. Burns

Janet Orff Jacaruso

Hopedale Board of Selectmen

*Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted **Roll Call